ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. WEST14-00018 U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/839,509 PATENT

→20. A device comprising a backplane comprising:

a low tier that is capable of aggregate traffic rates of up to approximately two gigabits per second; and

a high tier that is capable of aggregate traffic rates of up to approximately twenty gigabits per second;

wherein said device comprises one of: an access processor unit, a modem unit, and a combined access processor and modem unit.

REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 39,308

NOVAKOV DAVIS & MUNCK, P.C.

Date: May 8, 2001

900 Three Galleria Tower

13155 Noel Road

Dallas, Texas 75240

Phone: (214) 922-9221

Fax: (214) 969-7557

E-mail: wmunck@novakov.com